

UNCLASSIFIED STATE 00044254

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS COLLECTIVE

RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 7070

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 STATE 044254

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ETRD](#) [ECON](#)

SUBJECT: DEMARCHE REQUEST: URGE POSTS TO REMOVE TRADE
BANS ON PORK DUE TO H1N1 FEARS

¶1. For posts listed in paragraphs 6 and 7, this is an action request; other posts are encouraged to draw on these points if appropriate. Given the growing sensitivity on this issue, however, posts are requested to use discretion in discussing these points with countries that have not enacted restrictions on U.S. pork products in order to avoid adding to already heightened concerns.

SUMMARY

¶2. At least twelve countries have put in place either partial or complete bans on U.S. pork because of fears related to the H1N1 outbreak currently occurring in the United States, Mexico, and other parts of the world. We are aware of an additional eight countries that are considering a ban. As appropriate, Post may discuss a coordinated approach in-country with other foreign missions, particularly with the Mexican, Canadian, and European Community missions. The World Organization for Animal Health, commonly referred to by its French acronym as the OIE, is the standard setting body for trade in meat and animal products. The OIE issued statements on April 27 and 28 indicating that there is no risk from the consumption of fully cooked pork, and urging countries to refrain from interrupting trade flows. The Centers for Disease Control, along with other international experts, agree that there is no risk from eating properly handled and cooked pork.

OBJECTIVES

¶3. The intent of this cable is to urge governments which have implemented trade bans to reduce or eliminate those trade bans. Posts may also use these points to reassure governments that U.S. pork is safe. Posts that feel that governments may impose new trade bans may also use these points as appropriate.

DISEASE NAME

¶4. Initial reports calling this disease the "Swine Flu" resulted in confusion that triggered many of these trade bans. Therefore, the USG has determined that to minimize such confusion going forward, the term "H1N1 influenza" should be used. (Note: President Obama used this terminology in his April 29 press conference.) We do not support any attempt to have this disease termed the "Mexican Flu" or the "North American Flu."

SOURCES OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

¶5. Most international organizations and U.S. Government Agencies with an interest in animal or human health now have web sites devoted to news and advice related to the H1N1 outbreak. You may provide the following information to those seeking information.

- World Organization for Animal Health/OIE:
http://www.oie.int/eng/press/en_090428.htm World Health Organization: www.who.int/en
- Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN:
www.fao.org
- U.S. Center for disease control: www.cdc.gov
- U.S. Health and Human Services: www.hhs.gov

ACTION REQUEST

¶6. For Astana, Manila, Quito, Amman, Bishkek, Beirut, Kuala Lumpur only:

At the highest appropriate level, Post should inquire if Ministries of Agriculture and/or Ministries of Trade can confirm a trade ban using the following point, and provide other related information as appropriate:

- We understand that your Government is considering implementing a ban on U.S. pork because of fears related to the cases of H1N1 in the United States. We would urge your government to reconsider such action.

¶7. For Action Moscow, Beijing, Zagreb, Santo Domingo, Tegucigalpa, Jakarta, Belgrade, Seoul, Castries, Bangkok, Abu Dhabi, Kiev, and any other posts with confirmed bans:

At the highest appropriate level, Post should deliver the following points to Ministries of Agriculture and/or Ministries of Trade:

- The World Health Organization (WHO) clearly stated on April 30 that "There is also no risk of infection from this virus from consumption of well-cooked pork and pork products. Individuals are advised to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water on a regular basis and should seek medical attention if they develop any symptoms of influenza-like illness." The World Animal Health Organization, commonly referred to by its French acronym as the OIE, has likewise stated there is no need for trade bans.

- As always, safe steps in food handling, cooking, and storage are essential to prevent food-borne illness.

- There have been no reports of the 2009 H1N1 influenza occurring in swine in the United States. A network of federal veterinarians, state animal health officials, and private practitioners are regularly involved with monitoring U.S. swine for signs of significant disease. To date, there have been no reports that the influenza virus currently causing illness in humans is circulating anywhere in the U.S. swine herd. As a proactive measure, USDA is reaching out to all state animal health officials to affirm they have no signs of this virus type in their state. In addition, USDA has put U.S. pork producers on high alert to look for evidence of disease.

- The World Organization for Animal Health, commonly referred to by its French acronym as the OIE, is the standard setting body for the trade in animals and meat products. Their April 28 and April 30 statements are clear; "Currently, only findings

related to the circulation of this virus in pigs in zones of countries having human cases would justify trade measures on the importation of pigs from these countries." "Scientific evidence currently available to the OIE and partner organizations indicates that this novel A/H1N1 virus is being transmitted amongst humans; there is no evidence of infection in pigs, nor of humans acquiring infection directly from pigs". According to these experts, there is no justification for trade restrictions on U.S.-origin pigs, pork, or pork products, as this virus has not been isolated or reported in swine.

- Any disruption to trade, both of live animals and meat products, further exacerbates the global fears of increasing protectionism in trade. We would urge your government to consider whether there is a valid, sound scientific justification for maintaining these restrictions.

¶8. All other posts may draw on the talking points and other information referenced above in responding to inquiries from the host governments.

¶9. Please provide front channel response by May 8 with host government response to Ann Ryan EEB/TPP/MTAA/ABT, and slugged to Jane Doherty, USTR, and Clay Hamilton and Casey Bean, USDA/OSTA.

¶10. Minimize considered.
CLINTON